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THE HOUSE OF MAGNUS' BIG DAY!

Children of the atom and
world leaders gather
to pay tribute



**Trouble
for
Captain
Marvel?**
More Inside

ALL AGES

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HOUSE OF MAGNUS GALA THIS WEEKEND



House of Magnus' ERIC MAGNUS and PRINCESS ORORO of Kenya will be among the dignitaries celebrating thirty years of freedom from oppression by Sapiens.



BETTY BRANT Eric Magnus will be the center of attention, once again! This time at a charity gala in his honor hosted by the British Royal family.

Prince Namor, King T'Challa, Sir Victor Von Doom, Genis-Vell, Princess Ororo of Kenya and a smorgasbord of international glitterati are expected to pay tribute to the man in a once-in-a-lifetime event commemorating the anniversary of the rebellion against homo sapien oppressors that held the world captive for decades.

The event has been put together by Magnus's children, all of whom will be in attendance.

Security will be tight as a highly publicized event like this makes a prime target for sapien relation sympathizers. Rumors of several underground movements using this event to make a statement of violence against the house of Magnus have been circulating for weeks, but sources close to the event say that no such threats have surfaced and that "we do not live in fear."

Born in the Nazi death camp in Auschwitz, Poland and the only member of his family to survive the camp, Magnus discovered himself to be one of the earliest reported mutants. With his all-encompassing powers over Earth's magnetic fields, Magnus became an early target in anti-mutant propaganda, where he was given the mocking name Magneto.

Magnus struggled through a number of sapien attacks over the years with various world governments and the media branding him a mutant terrorist. As New Yorkers know, on August 18, 1979, Eric Magnus came under attack by the original and highly

controversial mutant-hunting Sentinels. This spectacular fight over the skies of New York City ended with Magnus unveiling proof of a worldwide multi-governmental anti-mutant conspiracy that funneled all the way up to our elected world leaders of the time, including American President Richard Nixon.

It was soon after the famed Sentinel takedown that the U.N. granted Magneto sovereignty over the newly established island of Genosha as the world capital of the mutant population.

Since then, with the homo superior population growing so quickly it is believed it will overtake the sapien population by the year 2013, Magneto's power base has restructured the world governments to include the pro-mutant life agenda into any and all law-making.

Look for full coverage of the event in the weekend edition of The Pulse along with an exclusive full color photo-essay of the red carpet arrivals.



PRINCE NAMOR, ruler of Atlantis, will be attending.

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HOT AS HELL!

TONY STARK

Hostile takeover averted. Industrialist Iron Man pulls a rabbit out of his hat and gets to keep his name on the door.

ALISON BLAIRE

Talk show picked up for three years for a reported \$60 million dollar payday.

RALPH MACCHIO

Comics guru makes the House of Ideas the largest print publisher on the planet.

JASON WYNGARDE

Goes head to head with Tony Stark and has nothing to show for it.

WARREN WORTHINGTON III

Sex scandal threatens to bring down family empire.

HELLFIRE CLUB

Closes its doors for the first time since 1760.

COLD AS ICE!



SPIDEY AND SON: PETER PARKER and son, RICHIE spend quality time in Central Park.



Looks like TV's Simon Williams bagged himself one of the good ones. Though Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel and the 'wonderful Mr. Williams' won't go on record, here's proof positive that they ARE just friends... with benefits.

BLIND ITEMS

GREEN WITH...

Word around City Hall is that a certain green-skinned, purple-suited Shalwyn, who tends to overbill her sapient clients and then bully them into paying the tab, has been pressing green to flesh with a sight-impaired peer in the back halls of the courthouse. Though green isn't this man-about-town's favorite color, I certainly think she can do a little better. But hey, they say love is blind. They also say it isn't easy being green. And they also say: get a room, girl!



WHEN IS IT TIME...

Poor national TV talk show host, Alison Blaire, whose bright shining smile brightens every dreary drudge's mediocre life. With her big contract negotiation out of the way, when will she break the news to her daytime audience that her mutant days are numbered due to a rare blood disorder that has all but pulled the plug on her signature light show?



BUN IN THE IRON OVEN?

Like he didn't have enough trouble, now we hear that a once truly super super model is six months pregnant and three months away from what's gotta be one of the biggest paydays in paternity history. And if the mismatched one doesn't start returning her phone calls, it could get mighty ugly, mighty fast. Book and TV offers are flooding in. Tony, phone call on line one.



NEW TECHNIQUE EYED IN MUTANT STEM-CELL DEBATE



DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS revealed his new procedure, known as "Altered."

With the nation deadlocked over the questionable morality of using mutated homo superior embryos for research for human medical treatments, a high ranking member of the President's Council on Nu-Bioethics is developing a proposal that might allow scientists to create the equivalent of homo superior embryonic stem cells without destroying mutant embryos, offering a potential path out of the controversy.

Dr. Otto Octavius, a bioethicist and staunch opponent of research on mutant embryos, has developed a procedure called Altered (Continued 15-B)

HYDRA SPLINTER GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KIDNAPPING



A woman who goes by the name Madame Hydra released a statement to the press via a web site claiming responsibility for the abduction of Mariko Harada, daughter of Japanese businessman Keniuchio Harada. The statement claims that Harada is actually the leader of the Japanese crime cartel Clan Yashida. Harada has denied these claims on numerous occasions and points to his legitimate business ventures both here in America and abroad.

Mariko Harada, 11, was last seen being dragged into a red van containing at least five masked males right outside the Baxter Building. NYPD Sgt. Jasper Sitwell said that the girl is believed to be in imminent danger. Madame Hydra's statement included the words: "This girl's mutant blood will spill in the streets if the Harada family does not forfeit their profits in the Indonesian MGH drug trade."

The Harada family, through a statement, said: "This devastating turn of events is nothing short of blackmail. The Harada family does not profit from the international drug trade. This is the work of psychotics. Please, we beg you, give us our innocent daughter back. If she is not returned unharmed, there will be no end to the retaliation."

Mariko is described as 4 feet tall, weighing 65 pounds, with black hair and black eyes, and wearing a white sweater and black jeans.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the nearest law-enforcement agency.



MARIKO HARADA, AGE 11. If you have any information regarding her whereabouts, please contact the F.B.I.

SUSPECTED SAPIEN GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN HELL'S KITCHEN



SUSPECTS RAPHAEL VEGA AND SHANG-CHI. Suspects in custody.

HELL'S KITCHEN (Reuters) Fifty-one people believed to be members of two powerful organized sapien crime gangs in New York were rounded up in pre-dawn raids and indicted on Tuesday, authorities said.

In three separate indictments filed in Manhattan Federal Court, the gang members faced charges including murder, attempted murder, racketeering, extortion, money laundering and operation of illegal gambling businesses.

Federal agents and New York police arrested members of the Dragon and Wolfpack crime organizations after investigations spanning two years, authorities said.

The Dragon group, led by Shang-Chi, and the Wolfpack group, headed by Raphael Vega, used violence and threats to protect their turf and profits, the U.S. Attorney General's office said.

A third indictment charged five defendants with smuggling illegal sapiens from Europe to the United States for fees of up to \$44,000 each, and holding them hostage pending payment.

It is expected to take several weeks for the trial to begin due to the defense arguing that no mutant should be on the jury. This would set a dangerous precedent if the judge rules in favor of the defense on this point.

LORD KEVIN PLUNDER GETS ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES

Human rights activist Lord Kevin Reginald Plunder has obtained political asylum in the United States after fleeing Pangea, where he had been serving a prison sentence for speaking out against the established government.

Plunder, 26, was originally given a four-year prison sentence on appeal on September 25th. In the last of a series of secret hearings, the Seventh District Court of Pandor sentenced Lord Plunder to (Continued 6-B)

LORD PLUNDER seen here with constant companion ZABU.



THUNDER DOWN UNDER



*NOT-SO-JOLLY GREEN GIANT — The Hulk in the Australian Outback.

THE PULSE: SPECIAL EDITION NEWSPAPER

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by Jacob Gunterson

The potential threat to the Australian government, run by the individual known simply as "Exodus," was first revealed when government forces stationed in Darwin made an aerial and ground assault on illegally massing humans at the border of the Tanami Desert. Australian laws regarding norm gatherings are the strictest in the world, since illegal immigration by norms has been a consistent problem in Australia for some time now. Consequently, the norm population is closely monitored, and illegals are subject to immediate arrest and deportation.

"The Tanami Desert has become a major problem for us," said one mutant official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Norms have been flooding in from all over and putting down stakes there. Maybe they thought that no one would care about it, them being in the desert and all."

If that was indeed their reasoning, then it was incorrect. Government forces, under the command of "Unus the Untouchable,"

mounted an assault against the Tanami refugees with the intention of arrest, trial, and deportation. Either that or, according to sources, the most physically able would be put to work in labor camps where they would be retrained to be of benefit to the government.

The surprising appearance of the Hulk, however, turned what was expected to be a simple operation into a terrifying rout for the government forces.

"He came out of nowhere!" stated John Hoffman, 34, one of the government soldiers. "He had to be, like, fifteen feet tall! And he had laser beams shooting out his eyes, and giant claws out to here!"

Other witnesses claimed additional powers for the Hulk, including mind control, elasticity, and the ability to split into four different versions of himself. Unus the Untouchable himself was hospitalized after the battle and unable to comment.

Despite differing descriptions of the encounter, in which the Hulk annihilated ground troops including giant manned robots, several consistent reports emerged.

The first was that the Hulk was apparently working side-by-side with the human terrorist organization Advanced Idea Mechanics, or AIM. Reported present in the battle were such noted renegades as "the Scorpion," her mother, AIM scientist Monica Rappaccini and cyber-mechanics expert Aaron Isaacs, whose son was apprehended. While the boy's current whereabouts is classified, sources claim that he has been airlifted to Sydney where the governor's elite guard will interrogate him.

The second report was that the Hulk was covered in what are believed to be Aboriginal tribal markings. This has led to speculation that either the Hulk or his alter ego, Banner, had taken up residence with an Aboriginal tribe. According to sources, the Mutant Forces attack route brought them through Aboriginal territory, and that might have brought the wrath of the Hulk down upon them.

The whereabouts of the Hulk and his AIM allies is unknown at the present time, but government forces were confident they would be located and arrested in short order. (Continued in Hulk #83-87)

A BRITISH BIRTHDAY BASH



The British Royal Family decamped this morning from Buckingham Palace, London, to Braddock Manor,

the ancestral family estate in the West of England, for a weekend of festival activities in celebration of the forthcoming birthday of Lord Magneto. The published guest list reads like an A-List "Who's Who" of both the Mutant and Baseline Society, headed by the Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair. The centerpiece of the scheduled events is a gala ball to be hosted by the Monarch himself and his consort, Her Royal Majesty, Queen Meggan. Initially, trial balloons had been floated about the possibility of Lord Magneto himself attending but it is now believed that he will be staying in his capital, Hammer Bay, Genosha.

The Monarch of course will be attending the actual birthday party itself in Genosha, along with the other Heads of State of the world's Great Powers.

One question making the rounds is the status of the Monarch's twin sister, Her Royal Highness Princess Elisabeth Gloriana. A self-described "rebel" from the start, she has always insisted on leading a wholly indepen-



KING AND QUEEN TOGETHER - Brian and Meggan Braddock enjoy the day together.

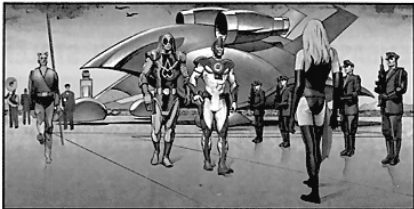
dent life, passionately committing herself to a number of fringe causes, most notably the so-called "Human Rights Campaign," which claims that the Baseline Gene populace of the world is being oppressed by the dominant Mutant Humanity. Recently, her actions led to widespread reports—since refuted—of her death in Valencia, Spain at the hands of a Baseline terrorist, Vargas. Her current whereabouts, and plans, are unknown; most recent reports—little more than rumors, really—state

that she is "traveling," along with her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Rachel Grey. As has been policy from the start, there has been no comment from the Palace to repeated enquiries about both; nor, according to Royal Spokesman Peter Wisdom, will there be.

Further complicating the planned celebrations here in Great Britain are as yet unconfirmed reports of possible terrorist sightings within the Realm. A National Alert has been issued for two unregistered aliens, one male, two meters tall and wearing red armor, answering to the code-name "Juggernaut." The other is female, of University age, described as looking very much like a classical goblin, with pointed "elf"-ears, indigo skin and hair. Instead of the normal number of fingers and toes, she has two digits on her hands and feet and preternatural acrobatic abilities. She may also have a tail. The only name applied to her is "Nocturne."

Police and security forces are confident they pose no threat to the Monarch and soon expect to take the fugitives into custody. Further, at least one Sentinel has been deployed to stand in the Monarch's personal defense. (Continued in *Uncanny X-Men* #462-465)

KREE DELEGATION ARRIVES TO HOPEFUL RECEPTION



CAPTAIN MARVEL WELCOMES AMBASSADORS FROM THE KREE EMPIRE - Carol Danvers greets aliens from another world in unprecedented meeting.

McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey - Amid secrecy, increased security and continued uncertainty, a delegation representing the interstellar Kree Empire arrived on Earth yesterday. Landing at 2:20 A.M. EST, the alien ship was met by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of State Robert Kelly and the Kree-empowered superhero known as Captain Marvel. The delegation arrived with the expectation of finalizing a treaty providing protection by the massive Kree Armada against

interstellar aggressors. Earth's solar system, in recent years, has become a focal point in the shipping routes and wormhole transportation channels used by advanced alien races.

Captain Marvel, whose powers were created by Kree technology that had been hidden on Earth for centuries, welcomed the delegation, saying, "We greet the ambassadors representing the Kree Empire, and the delegate from the outpost on Titan's Moon, the son of my very dear,

departed friend, Mar-Vell. We hope that your first step on Earth will be our first step together towards galactic peace and prosperity."

Although the delegates were not made available to the press, Chief Delegate Roman issued a statement claiming, "We have watched this world grow in truly wondrous ways. Your evolution has both surprised and intrigued us. We are here to see that your advancements continue free from the threat of species jealousies and evolutionary reactionaries that permeate our galaxy."

The delegate from Titan referred to by Captain Marvel, Private Genis-Vell of the Kree Exploratory Armada, was not made available for comment, but he has been given clearance by the United Nations and the Unified Armed Forces of Earth to engage the planet and its people in a fact-finding goodwill tour.

It is expected that while Roman and the majority of the Kree delegation finalizes the parameters of the treaty at the United Nations starting today, Private Vell will make numerous public appearances. Vell is expected to tour to Magneto's "VICTORY" statue on the Great Lawn in Central Park on Friday, with controversial appearances at Cape Canaveral Space Center and NORAD Control Center's Valhalla Base planned for next week. (Continued in *New Thunderbolts* #11)

WORLD LEADERS GATHER FOR HISTORIC GENOSHA SUMMIT

MAGNETO, MOLE KING RIFT WIDENS AS TRADE TREATY STALLS

GENOSHA — Lord Magneto's "road map" to peace with renegade leader and longtime House of M opponent Mole King stalled yesterday as both sides failed to reach accord and the treaty was rejected, joining the historic meeting with the leader of the rogue subterranean nation-state of Mohia was Latverian ruler Victor Von Doom. The meeting, a bid to stem Moloid insurgent violence that has claimed more than 300 lives since September, took place in the capital of Genosha.

This summit, the first between Lord Magneto and Mole King, was originally hailed as a breakthrough in relations with mutant and Moloid people, and the first step toward legitimacy of the unrecognized Molvian nation state. However, the leaders were unable to reach an agreement, and sparred over matters of Molvian sovereignty. Also contested were mineral rights to vast uranium and vibranium deposits on disputed Molvian territory, and a trade proposal was also rejected.

In a brief press conference following the meeting, Lord Magneto said he was "confident this is a first step on a path that will ultimately result in long and lasting peace between mutants, man and Moloids."

Mole King, however, was less optimistic, admitting "There are significant and fundamental philosophical differences between the Moloids and the House of M. If we are on a road to peace, it will be a long and difficult road indeed."

Latveria's temperamental leader Von Doom, who often refuses to participate in dialogue with Genosha's press corps altogether, offered a pessimistic assessment: "The Mole King is a fool. He lacks respect, and an understanding of his true place in the world. This summit has been a farce, and a waste of Doom's time."

The summit, which was scheduled to last the remainder of the week, concluded prematurely, as Doom's insistence, when he is alleged to have smashed the conference table before angrily departing for Latveria. Magneto, however, remained upbeat. "The Mole King and I may not see eye-to-eye, but he is a passionate leader of his people and a wise man. I have no doubt we will eventually come to some sort of understanding."

Doom was unavailable for further comment. (Continued in *Fantastic Four: House of M* # 1-3)



LORD MAGNETO WITH LATVERIAN LEADER VON DOOM AND THE SUBTERRANEAN MONARCH MOLE KING: The summit's trade treaty discussions stall, creating a greater divide between nations

EMBASSY ATTACKED; SENTINEL STOLEN



MEXICO CITY: Late Friday evening, an embassy building in Mexico City was the site of the latest bloody attack by non-mutant guerilla forces against the House of Magnus. Stolen during the attack was a Sentinel robot slated to be a gift to the Mexican government. The whereabouts of the Sentinel, as well as the details of the attack, remain largely unknown.

Sebastian Shaw, director of S.H.I.E.L.D., held a brief press conference in the hours following the attack. When asked if the elite Red Guard had been deployed, Shaw replied, "We believe that we already have one of our agents inside the organization."

Before leaving, Shaw was asked if the rumor that a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent had been killed during the attack was true. Shaw, smiling, replied, "This is a wild exaggeration. One of our agents was injured during the attack, but it was most assuredly not life-threatening. He'll be fine." (Continued in *Holovine* #33-35)



S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR SEBASTIAN SHAW SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE TERRORISTS. "They will be found. They will be caught. And they will be punished," he said.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S WALK ON MOON CELEBRATED

By Ed "Scoop" Brubaker

It's hard to believe, with all the progress that manned space flight has made in the last generation, that it was only 50 years ago that the USA first landed on the moon. More memorable, of course, are the words of Astronaut Steve Rogers, who fought through World War Two as America's Supersoldier, Captain America; "One small step for man, one giant step for peace between man and mutantkind!" For it was only through the joint work of Homo-Sapien and Homo-Superior scientists that America had reached the stars before the Russians, who were at that point still our enemy. And yet last night's celebration of the man's life and achievements in Manhattan was a sparsely attended affair, at best.

Among the attending, though, was the Sub-Mariner's son, Prince Wringor of Atlantis, who spoke at length about Rogers' heroism before the Senate Sub-Committee hearings on Mutant Activity in 1951. As you'll recall, Rogers resigned from his role as Captain America on live TV, on the Senate floor, during those hearings, after refusing to inform on his one-time teammate, Prince Namor, who the government at the time considered a dangerous mutant.

It was controversial for Rogers to be allowed into the Space Program after such a public incident, but it's believed some strings were pulled and arguments made behind closed doors about the proper use of Rogers' government-financed enhanced abilities. In any case, Rogers' statement at that time was literally a giant step forward in human/mutant relations, which were at the time, quite heated and dangerous. Historians now consider Rogers one of the key "bridge" figures who helped society move forward, helped move people beyond their prejudices and fears, and allowed Mutants to first be accepted as equals.



CAPTAIN STEVE ROGERS walks on the Moon 50 years ago.

Which is why Rogers' statements of warning about Magnus in the '70s, after his destruction of the Sentinel program, came as such a shock to many within the Mutant community. Rogers warned that Magnus's plans sounded suspiciously like the kind of tyranny he'd spent most of the '40s fighting against. Sources inside NASA claim he was forced into retirement shortly thereafter. This might explain the lack of any significant official Mutant presence at this event.

Rogers himself spoke for no more than a minute, in a careful and calm voice, yet one slightly tinged with sadness, thanking the men and mutants who'd fought and died beside him in the War, and those who'd sacrificed themselves in the Space Program. And then he was gone, leaving us with but a memory of a living legend, a man who walked among giants and among the stars. (Continued in *Captain America* #10)

**MUTANTS & SAPIENS
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- USE YOUR SAPIEN SKILLS TO HELP MUTANTS •
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IS MUTANT MURDERER REALLY SAPIEN SCIENTIST?

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND — In recent months, a string of ghastly murders originating in the Scottish capital have made headlines around the world. Dubbed "Mutant X" by the tabloid press, the as-yet-unidentified serial killer remains at large, and authorities fear that he or she may extend the murderous rampage beyond the borders of the United Kingdom. The sensational crimes first gained widespread notoriety owing to the fact that the victims are exclusively mutants, and that each corpse was found in a hideous, emaciated state, as if mummified. This telltale disfigurement is Mutant X's calling card and seemingly clear evidence that the killer is a mutant with the ability to somehow wither the victims' flesh. However, a theory recently announced by Interpol throws a new spin on the Mutant X manhunt.

Detective Chief Inspector Roger Llewellyn, Scotland Yard's liaison to Interpol, revealed on Tuesday that the Mutant X Joint Task Force is now pursuing the theory that the killings may be the work of a fugitive Sapien



Surveillance photo of DR. MOIRA MACTAGGART, courtesy of Interpol.

scientist with a well-established bias against Mutantkind. Scottish geneticist Moira MacTaggart was among the first scientists to recognize the ascendancy of mutants and rapid decline of the Sapien population. Rather than accept this natural step in human evolution, MacTaggart spoke at several international genetics symposiums

arguing the need for what she termed a "cure for the mutant condition." Of course, the mainstream scientific community rejected Doctor MacTaggart's work and all her funding was rescinded, but she continued seeking a way to curtail the spectacular rise in human mutation that characterized the past century. When Parliament passed legislation making her research illegal, MacTaggart fled her home and laboratory on Muir Isle and has remained a fugitive ever since. She is on Interpol's Most Wanted listings and Sentinel patrols across Europe have her features programmed into their active recognition systems. Still, MacTaggart eludes capture.

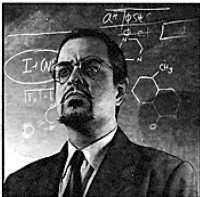
Interpol and Scotland Yard now fear that the emaciated corpses are not, as was previously believed, evidence of a flesh-wasting mutant ability. Rather, they speculate that the horrific deaths may be the result of MacTaggart's genetic "cure." Sadly, this dangerously misguided genius may have convinced herself that the only remedy for Sapien decline is the murder of innocent mutants. (Continued in *Exiles* #69-71)

THE SHALLOW END OF THE GENE POOL?

By Dr. Henry Pym—
Special to Scientific American

In the world of biogenetics, Nathaniel Essex is both rock star and pariah. He is the rock star whose years-long drug binge has left him a shell of the performer he once was, begrudgingly respected, but with more than a hint of regret. He is a pariah whose ever-escalating theories on the acceleration and resultant gentrification of the Homo Mutatis gene pool has made him untouchable among academic circles.

Little is known about his whereabouts, less about his activities. For the first time in ten years, Essex has made a public entreaty, contacting this writer after he'd read my report in the New England Journal of Medicine concerning the possibilities of cellular miniaturization as it pertains to the agricultural fields, as well as population control and military applications. Essex did not speak with me for very long, and he divulged little of what he had been doing for the last decade, but he did say that my theories were proof of his long-held belief that Homo Sapiens deserved "the opportunity of natural progression as well as that of natural selection." Long derided for his convictions that Homo Mutatis proliferated across the planet at a far faster pace than natural evolution should have allowed or would have preferred, Essex



DR. NATHANIEL ESSEX gives a lecture in Prague last September.

had been ostracized by the political pressure brought upon him by the mutant majority. He has made discreet congratulatory gestures to any humans he feels have "reached above and beyond their meager means."

I assume that, according to him, I made big strides with my theories on little things. In our brief conversation, I tried to get Essex to open up, talk about what he had been working on during his long isolation, but the most he would give me was a very cryptic, "The world will see in about eighteen years. Maturity and greatness can not be rushed. It must be

attained through age and experience."

With that, Essex hung up the phone, and before I called the editors of this publication to offer my experiences, I sat there for a few minutes, thinking about the fact that the biogenetics equivalent of Einstein had just made a call to me as casually as if he'd called for Domino's take-out. Underlying the thrill and uncertainty surrounding our brief conversation was also a nagging concern... a fear that had crawled down my spine with every one of Essex's whispered words.

I wondered what he had been doing for the last ten years, wondered why we would have to wait eighteen more years to find out. And I wondered if the greatness that man could achieve might not also quite possibly be a threat to all life on Earth. I feared that the madness of the rock star and the isolation of the pariah had turned Essex into something very different, something almost...sinister.

Whatever he had planned, I suspect the ego he wields and the rejection he obviously nurtures will lead Essex into trying to discover, or create, the next step in genetic evolution. Something greater than Homo Sapiens, beyond Homo Mutatis. Something new, some kind of link between the two, a lifeline, a cable leading to something...better? (Continued in *Cable and Deadpool* #17)

GREEN GOBLIN: SPIDEY'S 'A GOOD KID'

Joe "Crusher" Hogan remembers the night the skinny teenage boy hobbled into the Madison Square Garden wrestling ring. "He weighed about 10 pounds, and he was so uncoordinated I thought he'd slip over the ropes. Then there was his get-up; he had, like, a fishnet stocking on his face. The crowd laughed like crazy, and I couldn't help it, I laughed too. But I always felt bad about the whole 'Beat Crusher and win \$300' contest. This kid especially, he looked like he really needed money, but all he'd get by wrestling me was a hospital bed."

Peter Parker, the Amazing Spider-Man, ended up with quite a lot of money. In the guise of the Green Goblin, Parker's favorite wrestling opponent, Hogan has done very well, too. But first "Crusher" had to undergo an astonishing public humiliation. "When he kicked my butt in the ring, nobody could believe it. How'd this little drink of water get so strong and so fast? I didn't know anything about mutants back then. But he sure taught me," Hogan returned the favor, training the rookie to compete professionally

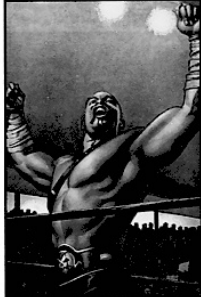
in the fledgling World Wrestling Alliance. "Best bet I ever made. He put the Alliance on the map, he put me on the map. And no matter how big he gets in Hollywood, or with his businesses, he never forgets us. He did a match with me just last month, and you know he doesn't have to, with all his money. He's just always been a good kid."

In giving Parker all of the credit for his success, Hogan glosses over his own talents. He was always a tough, athletic competitor, and his theatrical skills blossomed as Spider-Man's darkly villainous wrestling foe. "We were always a good fit. Spidey's so fun-loving with the wisecracks and all, and he encouraged me to go over the top with Goblin. Bad as I could be. Of course he designed the suit—he's good at that, you know, and he gave me the name and all. I'm just lucky. He walked into the ring that first night."

Has Spidey encouraged the Goblin to follow in his Hollywood footsteps? "Oh yeah, he's been great. He got me into that zombie picture a few years ago"—Hogan is referring to the straight-to-video *Bloodbath of the Flesh-Eaters*—"and I had a lot of trouble learning the lines, so they cut my part down a lot. Wrestling as the Goblin is acting, but there's not a lot of reading to it, you know? So it's better."

Of course, athletic careers don't last forever. When asked if he harbors any post-wrestling plans, Hogan's expression turns serious.

"I might run for governor." (Continued in *Spider-Man: Honor of M #1-5*)



JOE "CRUSHER" HOGAN revels in victory after a match.

DRAGONS OVER CHI-TOWN AND STARK TRIUMPHANT THE SAPIEN DEATH MATCH SEASON OPENER

By Flash Thompson

Season X of Sapien Death Match launched last night in Chicago with reigning champ and fan fave Tony Stark racking up another win, mangleing MBC Productions' latest robo terror and pulverizing three challengers in the final round of one-on-one combat.

Fifteen armored gladiators entered the arena for the evening's first round of action. Within two minutes, the field had narrowed to seven. Clark, Benson, and Chang detonated land mines the instant they touched ground. At least they got the grandkids they set foot onto the arena of champions—just barely! Mendoza and Grierson succumbed to the usual volley of heat-seeking missiles while Takahashi and Ellison had the unfortunate luck to be standing behind Heavy-S when his suit's pulse cannon backfired.

Critics have long grouched about the rapidity of the first round melee—with so much action so quickly in every corner of the field, it's hard to absorb and particularly disappointing for supporters of obscure up-and-comers who fall within seconds. But fans in the cheap seats love the grand sweep of those first few seconds of chaos. And you gotta love a sport which breaks it all down so fast, immediately culling the field of stragglers so that the true glory of great combat can shine—as it did last night in Round Two.

MBC Productions spent the off-season hyping the rumor mills about the mind-blowing new robots they'd be sending against this year's Sapien gladiators. I'll admit I was one of those who nodded cynically and said, "Yeah, another big tank, whatever." But this reporter's mouth literally fell open when the giant robo dragon descended from the skies at the top of Round Two.

Easily fifty feet long, the sinuous machine moved with the agility and speed of a flying cobra as it advanced on

the gladiators. The stands ranted with chants of "Tony, Tony!" But Stark held back, observing as young Johnny Storm took the first shot against the beast. Developed in China by Triple F Industries, the dragon has been touted as the most advanced piece of large-scale robotics ever deployed outside of the military or aerospace industries. Maybe Tony was slipping into his day job as president of Stark Industries, taking notes on a competitor's product. Or maybe he's just smart. Because it was Johnny Storm who took the brunt of the dragon's surprise attack—goats of fire from its mouth and nose, which dwarfed Storm's own flame-based weaponry and knocked the promising young gladiator out of the evening's fight.

While the dragon busied itself with dismantling O'Finley, Bates, and Habima, Stark formed a temporary battlefield alliance with Chin, F-Trane, and Skipper to begin coordinated waves of attacks against the beast's vulnerable joints, culminating in a blinding explosion, the glow from which Indiana residents report seeing on the horizon fifty miles away.

In the final round of individual combat, Stark quickly trounced Chin and Skipper. F-Trane managed a handful of interesting evasive moves and launched a surprise volley of concussion grenades, but ran out of new tricks when Stark caught him by the scruff of the neck and put him out for the night. (Continued in *Iron Man: Honor of M #1-3*)



TONY STARK battles a bionic dragon in Sapien Death Match this season on MBC.

STORM CLOUDS OVER AFRICA



DAZZLING STORM - Ororo Munroe visits the Alison Blaire show yesterday.

Of all the lands that have benefited from Magneto's reign, the continent of Africa has benefited the most. Under mutant control, poverty and pestilence have been replaced with abundance and a higher standard of living than ever before.

But on the popular ALISON show yesterday, Queen Ororo of Kenya hinted of political upheaval in the region's future. In an exchange that accused Magneto of racial bias, she seemed to ally herself with The Black Panther, the human leader of Wakanda, one of the last regions under human control.

The Black Panther has long been suspected of harboring human terrorists, but so far has upheld the terms of the non-aggression pact his father signed decades ago.

The question is, will Apocalypse, the Magneto loyalist who rules Northern Africa, be forced to intercede if weapons of mutant destruction are found on Wakandan soil? Weapons inspector Sabretooth is being dispatched today. His meeting with The Black Panther will decide whether a larger military intervention is necessary. (Continued in *Black Panther* #7)



FACE DOWN IN THE GUTTER

ALL THE GOSSIP THAT'S UNFIT TO PRINT FROM DICK "IS THAT A PISTOL IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YOU JUST GLAD TO- OH IT IS A PISTOL" JONSTON

The hottest ticket in town this week had to be the premiere of "Let's Make Love — Again," the first of two back-to-back Marilyn Monroe remakes from the Kaufman Studio. So was the repeat experience a night to remember? More of an anti-climax, according to movie critics, including our own Paul Cale who commented acidly, "The face may be right but behind the glamorous illusion, the acting is as dead as the real Norma Jean. Frankly I'd prefer a CGI Monroe with a voice-over."

But that won't stop the punters from flocking to multiplexes across the country, and in the words of Daniel "Shaky" Kaufman: "Butts on seats count for more than a bunch of awards from some cruddy Film Festival in Nowheresville, France."

So once again, box-office gold for the self-anointed King of Hollywood and his fourth wife, Lara the Illusionist. Among the A-list celebs who flocked to the après film soiree at Kaufman's "Inferno" club were Tony "The Iron Man" Stark, recently voted most eligible Sapien Bachelor by our very own readers, who arrived in the company of the wonderful Mary Jane Watson; Alison Blaire, dazzling the assembled paparazzi in a revealing creation from Janet Van Dyne; Simon Williams whose limo arrived only minutes before Carol

Danvers — a less than successful attempt to scotch rumors of a relationship. The two were spotted later by yours truly, canoodling in a most unplatonic fashion in a secluded corner of the club.



TONY STARK escorts **MARY JANE WATSON** down the red carpet.

A late arrival was Warren Worthington III, looking to these eyes, a little unsteady on his feet. WWII received an unexpected champagne toast from the only real royalty present at the shindig, when Ororo Munroe upended her drink over the unfortunate Mr. Worthington. Was it something he said? Whatever happened between them, I'm reliably informed that Mr. Worthington was accompanied all the way home by his own private rain cloud.

And my own weather forecast for the week? More stormy weather ahead, when Jazz-E-Jazz hits town with a private performance to celebrate the climax of his "Kind of Blue" World Tour. The Jazz One is planning to paralyze like it's 1999 all over again and the guest list is guaranteed to send the sparks flying. Shaky Kaufman and Filthy Frankie Zapruder in the same room? You heard it here first. The last time these two business rivals shared the same air, Shaky's personal bodyguard, Jimmy Damiano, known as "Mr. Punch," went down in a hail of bullets. Although charges were never pressed against Zapruder, Kaufman is thought to have sworn revenge for the death of his "best and most loyal friend." So what I'd like to know is—Where can I hire a bulletproof tux?



Janet Van Dyne

PARIS • MILAN • NEW YORK CITY

The Signature of Style

THREE PHASES TOWARDS SUCCESS: POPULAR PSYCHOLOGIST HAS TRADED A GOVERNMENT JOB FOR TEACHING GIG

One year ago, anyone watching the dealings of the House Of Magnus would have pegged Sean Garrison as the next Press Secretary for the world's ruling family. But one year ago, few people knew that Garrison had a higher priority: his daughter's education.

Dr. Garrison has written five best-selling novels on how to achieve your dreams. His term, "The Three Phases Towards Success," has entered the vernacular and become almost a cliché. His three steps are simple. First Phase: Decide what you really want to be. Second Phase: Eliminate obstacles towards your success. Third Phase: Become what you want to be. As anyone who's watched Garrison (or "Dr. Sean," as the faithful call him) on his television show knows, the trick is the First Phase. What do you want to be?

For Garrison, that seemed straightforward. A man known to the world as a trustworthy friend, his pheromone powers can put anyone at ease. Yet his ability to communicate was not just the product of his impressive mutant abilities. People feel strongly about Garrison watching him on TV, or reading his book—media that his pheromones could never affect. When Magneto needed a new spokesman, there seemed no better man for the job.

But Garrison is also a father. His fifteen-year-old daughter, Laurie, was invited to join the prestigious New Mutant Leadership Institute in New York, a training center for the next generation of mutant leaders. To be close with Laurie (who shares his mutant gifts), Garrison took a faculty position at the Institute, declining the job as Press Secretary.

When Dr. Garrison was young and newly famous, he became involved with a fan—a Sapien fan. She became pregnant with his child, and ran off. Gail Collins attempted to keep Garrison from knowing he was a father, and tried to raise Laurie as a baseline human.

The police tracked Ms. Collins down. The resulting standoff made the evening news for three nights running. Many feared Collins

THREE PHASES TOWARDS SUCCESS



DR. SEAN GARRISON'S latest bestselling book.

would take her own life, and perhaps Laurie's as well. But Garrison arrived on the scene, and, despite Collins' newfound immunity to his powers (the result of her pregnancy), talked her down. Collins went into a mental institution. And Garrison became a single father.

Despite her public coming-out, Laurie has been shielded from the spotlight. But the Institute trains leaders, so her father felt the time had come for Laurie to be the focus.

When asked if he regrets going to the Institute, Garrison is unequivocal. "Never. Laurie and I are close. We talk daily. I'm helping her to achieve her Three Phases. That, in turn, is the greatest success a man can ask for."

As for those who say a government job would better suit him, he has only this to say: "I still have friends in the government. When Laurie's dreams are achieved, it'll be my turn. You'll hear from me again." (Continued in *New X-Men* #16-19)

CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT YOUR BABY WILL BE A MUTANT?

- McM Scientists say that to increase chances of Mutant Birth, ambient temperature of the mother's home should remain at exactly 80 degrees.
- Stay away from organic vegetables. Produce treated with MGR encourages healthy gene stock.
- There is always a chance that a child will be born with the X-Gene, but that chance increases when one or more parents are Meta-Humans (This means you, Woodman and Captain Marvel!) ...and is almost guaranteed when one or both parents are Homo-Superior.
- Some happy mutants-mommes claim a daily prayer to the mythical Apocalypse can be a boon.
- If all else fails, pre-Sapien regimes like that of Latoria regularly put mutants up for international adoption.
- Don't filter your water—serious environmental factors, while increasing the chance of bacteria and viruses, can also have positive effects on the human genome.
- While it is not strictly considered a mutation, exposing your children to gamma radiation, cosmic rays, the power cosmic, walls of strange chemicals or the bite of an irradiated animal can make your child a meta-human, and so they say. "Make her better than me!"
- Haste of M Sponsored Fertility clinics can, for a price, skate over the genetic denials of all types of mutants. Increase your chances of raising a Flyer!
- Although most likely unavailable by most of our readers, it has been said that a blessing from Lord Magnus himself, with his constant magnetic field, can act as the catalyst for children still in the womb.



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HOUSE OF M CHECKLIST

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